

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04240 191011Z
ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, KS
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER: SENTENCING

REF: SEOUL 3543 AND PREVIOUS

1. SEOUL DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURT PRONOUNCED SENTENCE ON AUTHOR
YI YONG-HUI AND PUBLISHER PAEK NAK-CH'ONG ON MAY 19, AS FOLLOWS:

PROF. YI YONG-HUI THREE YEARS
PROF. PAEK NAK-CH'ONG ONE YEAR

(SENTENCES ARE FOR HARD LABOR, PLUS SUSPENSION OF CIVIL RIGHTS
FOR AN EQUAL PERIOD THEREAFTER). PROSECUTORS HAD DEMANDED FIVE
PLUS FIVE AND THREE PLUS THREE, RESPECTIVELY, AT SESSION OF
APRIL 21.

2. EMBASSY OBSERVER REMARKED THAT, IN A DEPARTURE FROM USUAL
PRACTICE, JUDGE DID NOT GIVE REASONS FOR HIS DECISION, BUT
MERELY CITED PRECEDENTS FROM SUPREME COURT. THESE PRECEDENTS
(KIM CHI-HA'S "FIVE THIEVES" AND LAWYER HAN SUNG-HON'S
WORDS OF CONDOLGENCE") ESTABLISHED THAT ANTI-COMMUNIST
LAW MAY BE VIOLATED BY PUBLICATIONS WHICH "BENEFIT THE ENEBY",
REGARDLESS OF THE ABSENCE OF SUCH INTENT.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04240 191011Z

3. OBSERVER ALSO NOTED THAT COURT DID NOT ANNOUNCE
ARREST OF PROF. PAEK SO, AS IN CASE OF MYONGDONG
DEFENDANTS, PAEK WILL PROBABLY REMAIN FREE UNTIL SUPREME
COURT RULES ON HIS CONVICTION. BOTH YI AND PAEK ARE
EXPECTED TO PURSUE THEIR CONVICTIONS THROUGH THE APPEALS
PROCESS.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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